

MCGEP0178USA

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of :  
: George S. Bokisa et al. : Art Unit: Not Yet Assigned  
: Serial No: Not Yet Assigned :  
(Div. of 09/454,023) : Examiner: Not Yet Assigned  
: Filed: HEREWITH - November 2, 2001 :  
Express Mail No. EF232848867US

For: A TIN WHISKER FREE PRINTED CIRCUIT BOARD

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

This paper is filed together with a new divisional application which claims priority under 35 U.S.C. 120 to prior U.S. Application Serial No. 09/454,023. Applicants request entry of the present Preliminary Amendment prior to calculation of the claim fees and prior to substantive examination of the claims.

**REMARKS**

Upon filing of the present divisional application, claims 1-29 are pending in the present application. The present Preliminary Amendment is filed to explain the contents of the divisional application, including the claims and associated papers.

The present divisional application is being filed under 37 CFR 1.53(b) in accordance with "Pre-Grant Publication Helpful Hint: File Continuation or Divisional Application with a New Specification and Copy of Oath or Declaration from Prior Application", posted 20 September 2001 on the USPTO web site at the URL <http://www.uspto.gov/web/offices/com/sol/og/2001/week41/pathint.htm>.

As suggested therein, Applicants have submitted herewith a new specification including claims 1-29, drawn to the invention restricted out of the parent application prosecution. Claims 1 and 2 stand as originally filed in the parent application. New claims 3-29 have been added. Claims 1-29 are based on the originally filed claims, and/or are fully supported therein and in the specification as originally filed.

At the instruction of Ms. Eugenia Jones of the Office of Patent Legal Administration, the claims are numbered 1-29, rather than starting with the next highest number used in the parent application.

In the presently filed specification, both the Title of the invention and the Abstract of the disclosure have been amended to reflect the claimed invention of the present divisional application, i.e., the printed circuit board of claims 1-29. In addition, reference and a claim of priority to the parent application has been inserted on page 1 of the application.

No new matter is contained in the application.

The present divisional application is filed together with an Information Disclosure Statement which is believed to include all references cited during prosecution of the parent application, application no. 09/454,023. Copies of the references are not included with the IDS.

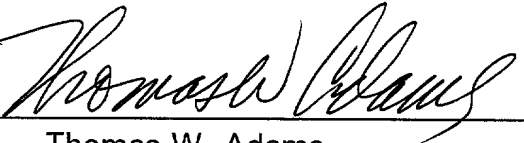
If the Examiner considers that a telephone interview would expedite prosecution, Applicants request that the Examiner telephone the undersigned to expedite allowance of the application. No additional fees are believed required as a result of the present

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paper; however, in the event such fees are required, the Commissioner is authorized to charge those fees to Deposit Account #18-0988, Docket No. MCGEP0178USA.

Respectfully submitted,  
RENNER, OTTO, BOISSELLE & SKLAR, LLP

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